

NIGHT AND DAY PRAYING....

1 Thess 3:9-13

First time in relation to their character

1. Work of Faith
2. Labor of Love
3. Patience of Hope

Second time in relation to Word

1. Receptive to Word
2. Discerning about Word
3. Changed by Word

1 Th 3:9 This time giving thanks for stability

Thanking God because of:

1. Their faithfulness and consistency
2. His own satisfaction

Notice about Paul: brings every incident of life before God--good or bad, happy or sad.

Transparent and open before God

1 Th 3:10 Praying and thanksgiving closely related.

Night and day... by night and by day--at certain times

Every time Holy Spirit prompted him to pray for them.

Exceedingly... over abundantly, beyond all measure, exceedingly overflowing all bounds, superabundantly, intensely.

Hudson Taylor: *"The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity...If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."*

"More things are wrought by prayer than the world dreams of."

"Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies beyond the will of God."

"If you are a stranger to prayer, you are a stranger to power."

"He stands best who kneels most."

"A praying man can never be a useless man."

Lord, help me to be – Intensely spiritual, perfectly natural, thoroughly practical.

Three special requests:

1. They become mature in their faith.

Perfect: adjust, equip, furnish. Word used for mending of nets or setting broken bones. To complete or make good that which is still needed.

that which is lacking in your faith Lacking, falling short of certain qualities they need in relationship to God..

Romans 1:17 grow from faith to faith.

2. That their love might abound 1 Th 3:12

Wiersbe: Persecuted people often become very self-centered and demanding. What life does to us depends on what life finds in us; and nothing reveals the true inner man like the furnace of affliction.

Gain a new ability to love with God's love because of trials.

3. They might be holy in their lives. 1 Th 3:13 ... stablish your hearts

strengthen, make firm, establish; fix, set up; make a firm resolve

Wiersbe: Where there is stability, there can be sanctity; and where there is holiness, there

is assurance. The two go together.

Unblameable in holiness: Unblemished, without blame or fault , deserving no censure--In the realm or sphere of holiness...in consecration.

before God, even our Father God sees everything.

Hearts and motives. Secret hidden sins. True hypocrisy and spirituality.

Unholy actions begin with unholy thoughts... unholy heart.

Paul concerned that they love from very depth of being--from hearts.

Vital for believer to have heart that is clean... short sin accounts with God.

... at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. In sight of God when Jesus Christ comes back with all saints.

Jesus Christ physically appear in heaven to rapture Church from all trials and tribulations going on here on earth.

Happen immediately before & preceding 7 years of tribulation here on earth

Coming: parousia, alongside of, to be personally present alongside of

Physical, literal, bodily return of Jesus Christ.

He will meet us in the sky.

Three Grk words express truth about coming of Lord:

Epiphaneia : appearing. See Him with our eyes.

Apokalupsis: revelation. Speaks of His glory.

Parousia: presence...coming.

1 Thess. 4:17 we will be caught up to meet Lord in the air. At that moment we will be present with Him.

Here, Jesus Christ come for His saints. The rapture ...any moment. Imminent.

Mat 24:37-44 1 Th 5:2-3

So What?

Paul's prayer for young Christians:

1. Faith mature
2. Love abound
3. Holy in lives

We have learned?

1. Need to follow up on new believers
2. See them established in the faith and mature in the Lord.
3. Need to pray "exceedingly" for new converts:
 - More mature in their faith
 - Abound in Love
 - Holy in their hearts